

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR,UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 20

1. COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING:

PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES TASS ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT MEETING IN BUDAPEST OF EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, TALKS CONCERNED VE DAY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND DETENTE. PARTICIPANTS, ACCORDING TO TASS, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUICKEST CONCLUSION OF CSCE AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL. PRAVDA ALSO FRONT-PAGES TASS ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FROM BUDAPEST ON MARCH 19.

2. AT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IN ROME, POLITBURO MEMBER KIRILENKO REPEATED BREZHNEV' CONCILIATORY TONE IN BUDAPEST, BUT MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE U.S. HE STRESSED THAT THE THREAT OF WAR WAS RECEDING AND THAT DETENTE BENEFITS THE WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES. THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE CONTINUES, HE SAID, BUT MOSCOW SEEKS TO LIQUIDATE THE THREAT OF WAR. HE TIED THIS COMMENT TO THE GOAL OF FINDING A "JUST SOLUTION" TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND SAID THAT MOSCOW WAS "MAKING EFFORTS" TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN SE ASIA. ON CSCE HE SAID THAT A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION WAS "COMING INTO VIEW." (SPEECH REPORTED SEPTTEL)

3. VISITS. PRESS CARRIES REPORTS ABOUT DEPARTURE FOR LENINGRAD OF GAMBIA'S PRESIDENT JAWARA AND ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC. CHIRAC, MET BY KOSYGIN, AT AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE SAID HE EXPECTS TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS TO DEVELOP FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS "IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND GISCARD AT UNCLASSIFIED

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RAMBOUILLET." CHIRAC QUOTED THAT GISCARD WILL MEET BREZHNEV IN THE SOVIET UNION THIS FALL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KOSYGIN WILL VISIT PARIS AT A "CONVENIENT TIME" FOR HIM.

4. WESTERN EUROPE. PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM LONDON REPORTING NEGATIVELY WILSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED UK PARTICIPATION IN THE EEC. THE TASS ARTICLE

CITES THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RESOLUTION BY 120 MP'S OPPOSING BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. IZVESTIYA REPORTS FROM STOCKHOLM THE REVELATION OF A ALLEGED SECRET LETTER FROM THE SWEDISH DEFENSE MINISTER TO THE FOUR NATO COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN THE VIGGEN FIGHTER. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE SWEDISH PRESS HAS POINTED OUT THE NECESSITY OF SWEDEN REMAINING NEUTRAL.

5. PORTUGAL. MAJOR DAILIES CARRY TASS ITEM FROM LISBON REPORTING PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO BAN THREE POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

6. MIDDLE EAST. PRESS AGAIN MAKES NO MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. IZVESTIYA CARRIES BRIEF REPORT THAT SOVIET DELEGATION FROM THE AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (LED BY COMMITTEE'S DEPUTY CHAIRMAN KUDRYAVTSEV) MET WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT MARCH 18.

7. PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES A CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE TO SOUTH YEMEN'S NATIONAL FRONT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 6TH CONGRESS. MESSAGE AND COMPLIMENTARY STORY ON PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL PAGE BOTH STRESS STABILITY AND AUTHORITY OF FRONT'S LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH YEMEN.

8. ON OTHER MIDDLE EAST ITEMS PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT THAT ARAB OPEC MEETING IN DUBAI AGREED THAT OIL PRODUCERS WILL DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ANY "IMPERIALIST" EFFORTS TO BREAK THE CARTEL AND THAT ARAB PRODUCERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO USE THE OIL WEAPON IN DEFENSE OF ARAB INTERESTS. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT EULOGIZING USSR'S VICTORY OVER NAZISM AS A TURNING POINT IN THE STRUGGLE OF COLONIAL PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM.

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9. RHODESIA. PRAVDA HAS SHORT TASS ITEM REPORTING DEATH OF RHODESIAN RESISTANCE LEADER CHITEPO (PHONETIC). ARTICLE CALLS HIS ASSASSINATION AN ACT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE AND CHARGES "RHODESIAN SPIES" WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MURDER.

10. VIETNAM-CAMBODIA. AN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY FOLLOWS PRAVDA'S OF YESTERDAY OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLEGED U.S. INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM. IZVESTIYA'S PIECE REPEATS THE CANARD THAT 25 THOUSAND "SO-CALLED U.S. ADVISORS" REMAIN IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CITES DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH'S LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY THAT A NEW ADMINISTRATION MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN SAIGON DEDICATED TO IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SEEKING PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CARRY REPORTS

OF THE ADVANCE OF THE "PATRIOTS" AROUND PHNOM PENH, AND BOTH PAPERS CARRY CARTOONS SHOWING TIME RUNNING OUT ON THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT.

11. CHINA. PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM PEKING REPORTING THE PRC ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMNESTY FOR WAR CRIMINALS. TASS ADDS A KICKER, HOWEVER, THAT PEKING REMAINS SILENT ABOUT THE THOUSANDS "REPRESSED" DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE TASS ITEM WAS READ ON THE MAIN EVENING TELEVISION NEWS LAST NIGHT.

12. KOREA. PRAVDA REPLAYS EXCERPTS FROM A NORTH KOREAN ARTICLE MARKING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET-DPRK AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, AN EVENT WHICH WAS NOTED IN LOW KEY SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNTS EARLIER THIS WEEK.
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